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U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Energy and Commerce
Room 2125, Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

April 13, 1982

FRANK M. POTTER, JR.
CHIEF COUNSEL AND STAFF DIRECTOR

Chief, Planning Staff
Office of Executive Director
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D. C. 20509

Dear [REDACTED]

The House Committee on Energy and Commerce invites you to attend a two day workshop on May 20 and 21, 1982. The purpose of the workshop is to explore ways of improving national foresight, forecasting, and issues identification capabilities, especially through the sharing of information between the public and private sectors.

The Committee is scheduling this workshop because national problems have become increasingly complex and are straddling sectors which traditionally have been viewed as separate. As economic, energy, and environmental interdependence grows, actions of one nation increasingly affect the security and quality of life in other nations. Similar interdependence exists domestically between regions. Prudence would dictate a capability to monitor systematically these large-scale problems and long-term trends on the national level, not as an attempt to "plan" the future, but as a means to anticipate events. Such capability does not exist currently.

The workshop is intended to bring together a diversity of views on information and processes used for forecasting and monitoring. Approximately 40 participants from industry, universities, think tanks, and the executive and legislative branches of government are being invited to attend. The workshop will be structured to facilitate the exchange of information, experiences, and expectations, thereby increasing common information bases. Enhancing trust and understanding among the various constituencies which influence national policy is a major workshop objective. The Committee hopes that such an exchange will help it identify ways to encourage similar exchanges on a continuing basis, and to define the appropriate roles for the Federal legislative and executive branches in these exchanges.

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Preliminary meetings precede the May workshop. In March, Congressional staff, members of the Issue Management Association and staff of the Congressional Research Service exchanged views, techniques, and sources of foresight and issue management information. In April, a small group has been invited to work with us to sharpen the focus of the May agenda, to choose discussion topics, and to select background materials.

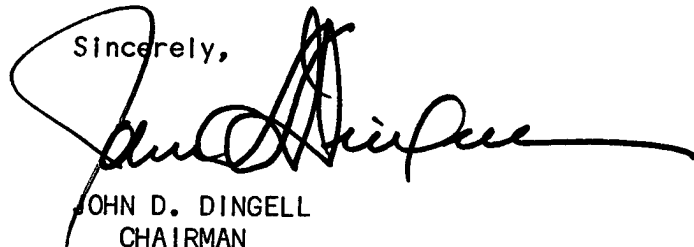
As currently planned, the May workshop will have four sessions: one on institutional experiences and perspectives regarding foresight information; one on methods of obtaining, analyzing, synthesizing and communicating foresight information; and one on opportunities for sharing of foresight information. A final synthesis of the first three sessions will be attempted in the fourth session on May 21. At the May 21 summary seminar, the workshop will be joined by a number of senior executives and policy level officials who are the primary users of foresight and emerging issue information. A preliminary agenda and synopsis of the workshop are enclosed.

Those who accept our invitation to attend the May workshop will be mailed a detailed list of committee objectives, workshop groundrules, and readings. In return, the Committee asks that you prepare a brief written summary or outline of the key points that you believe should be discussed at the meeting. This summary will be distributed to other workshop participants prior to the May dates to facilitate group discussion without formal presentations. All participants will be encouraged to share their views, to interact with each other, and to contribute written or reference material for the proceedings. In view of this interactive format, participants are asked to be in attendance for the full meeting.

The products of the workshop will be a summary statement incorporating procedural, institutional, and policy suggestions of the participants; a Committee print of the proceedings and related supporting material; and a report to the Congress suggesting options for appropriate short and long-term legislation and administration responses.

This invitation is extended to you personally and is not transferable. However, the Committee will be pleased to consider your nomination of another official responsible for some or all of the foresight activities described here. Since this meeting is a cooperative endeavor for mutual exchange of information and all participants are expected to share in the benefits, the Committee will not be responsible for travel or other expenses. Please address what we hope will be your favorable response to Dr. John Clough of the House Committee on Energy and Commerce (202/225-2927).

Sincerely,



JOHN D. DINGELL
CHAIRMAN

Enclosure

WORKSHOP: A NATIONAL FORESIGHT NETWORK

Sponsored by the United States House of Representatives
Committee on Energy and Commerce
Hon. John D. Dingell, Chairman
May 20 and 21, 1982

AGENDA

Thursday, May 20, 1982
2322 Rayburn House Office Building

9:45 a.m.	Keynote	Hon. John D. Dingell, Chairman
9:50	Why A National Foresight Capability?	Frank M. Potter, Jr. Chief Counsel and Staff Director Committee on Energy and Commerce
9:55	Workshop Processes and Products	Walter A. Hahn Senior Specialist in Science, Technology and Futures Research Congressional Research Service
10:00	Institutional Experiences from Multiple Perspectives	Pat Choate (Chair) Senior Policy Analyst TRW, Inc.
12:00	Lunch (dutch treat)	H 137 Capitol
1:00	Methods of Obtaining and Analyzing Foresight Information	Kenneth P. Gordon (Chair) Director, Planning Office National Bureau of Standards
3:00	Break	
3:30	Sharing of Foresight Information: Barriers and Opportunities	Hon. Elsa A. Porter (Chair) Writer and Lecturer (Former Assistant Secretary of Commerce)
5:30	What have we accomplished: things to think about this evening	John M. Clough, Jr. Professional Staff Committee on Energy and Commerce
6:00	Cocktails The Gold Room, 2168 Rayburn House Office Building	
7:00	Dinner The Gold Room, 2168 Rayburn House Office Building	Hon. John D. Dingell, Host Sponsors: AT&T The Keystone Center

Friday, May 21, 1982
2123 Rayburn House Office Building

9:45 a.m.	Foresight for Governance	Hon. John D. Dingell, Chairman Hon. Thad Cochran, Vice Chairman Congressional Clearinghouse on the Future Hon. Albert Gore, Jr., Chairman Congressional Clearinghouse on the Future
10:00	Toward a National Foresight Capability	Hon. Russell E. Train (Chair) President World Wildlife Fund -- U.S.
10:05	An Overview	Dennis L. Little Specialist in Futures Research and Population Policy Congressional Research Service
10:35	Institutions	Roger Davidson Senior Specialist in American Government Congressional Research Service
11:15	Methods	David Barnhizer Professor of Law Cleveland State University
11:55	Barriers and Opportunities	Donald Lesh Executive Director Global Tomorrow Coalition
12:40	Summary and Synthesis	Frank Potter and Walter Hahn
1:00	Adjourn	

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